



Burning paint in La Academia Del Arte sent flames and billowing smoke into Watsonville skies; above, firemen prepare to take hoses to roof.

photos by Sam Vestal

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The Schweiker gambit Reagan takes bold gamble

By JAMES R. DICKENSON
Washington Star

WASHINGTON — One Pennsylvania Republican delegate who had been leaning to Ronald Reagan was outraged when he heard that Reagan had named Pennsylvania's liberal Republican senator, Richard S. Schweiker, as his vice presidential choice.

"My gut reaction is to jump immediately to the Ford team," he said.

"I feel like I've been sold down the river.

The most bitter reaction was from the most right-wing and ardent members of the party, but Reagan and his advisers are gambling that there will be enough time before the convention for passions to cool and for the temporarily disillusioned faithful to return to the fold.

At any rate, given Ford's appearance of inexorability, Reagan may have had no choice but to make such a dramatic move to head the President off.

Schweiker may have done some damage

whose candidates will complement each other and run strongly against the Democrats in the fall.

The move represents the first attempt since 1960 to name a ticket that would unify the conservative Sunbelt wing of the party with its "Eastern Establishment," which controlled the GOP nominations until the conservatives took control of the party and nominated Barry Goldwater in 1964.

The idea was the brainchild of Sears, who began working in presidential politics for

to cut back Ford's lead, which according to The Star's delegate count is 1,128 to 1,064 with 67 uncommitted and 1,130 needed to nominate. This includes 88 votes for Ford in Pennsylvania.

Estimates of what Schweiker can deliver vary, partly because he has the sort of record normally associated with liberal Democrats. He is the only U.S. senator who got a perfect rating from the AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education for his votes on legislation of interest to labor.



Fire hadn't reached front of building in early stages

Blaze destroys furniture store

By KEN MC LAUGHLIN

A fire fueled by paint and lacquer yesterday afternoon gutted a building occupied by Downtown Furniture, the La Academia Del Arte and some apartments. The blaze and the towering cloud of smoke attracted a crowd of more than 500.

Firemen are still undecided what caused the blaze, which started in the East Lake Ave. art studio shortly before 4:30 p.m. Investigator Dave Williams, however, said this morning that artists had been doing some "silk-screening" which requires highly inflammable paint thinner and lacquer.

Connie Villareal said she left the building about 3:30 p.m. with her supervisor, Ray Ramos. "The electricity and everything was off," she said.

The fire required the services of 18 professional and 15 volunteer firemen. Fireman Loren Atkins, who received a slight burn on his neck, said the fire was under control by 5:50 p.m. Firemen didn't return to the station until 10 p.m.

Two other firemen, Ron Hill and Vern Hamilton, received slight injuries fighting the blaze. Hill suffered a cut finger and Hamilton stepped on a nail.

Fire chief Earl German said the fire was difficult to fight, because two fire doors were jammed. One door led into the building from the west end and the other blocked passage from the art studio to the furniture store.

"And once we got inside, we couldn't see anything," said deputy chief Bob Timothy, referring to the thick black smoke which could be seen for miles.

The fire did at least \$50,000 damage to the building, Timothy estimated. Mike Everett, manager of the furniture store, who was in the building at the time the fire broke out, said that between \$60,000 and \$70,000 worth

of furniture was destroyed. "That's about \$125,000 retail," he said.

Three engines and two ladder trucks, including an aerial truck with a "ladder pipe" that can pour forth a large stream of water, were at the scene.

Arafat Sabla, whose apartment was destroyed, didn't find out about the fire until he arrived from his job at Watsonville Roses. "I saw the smoke was in the area of my apartment, but I never thought it would be mine," he said glumly.

One of the first persons to discover the blaze was Bill DeWorken whose family recently sold the building to Dorothy Zanolli, who lives in Athens, Greece. "I grabbed a garden hose and then saw how much smoke there was and gave up," DeWorken said.

For many years, the building was occupied by De Worken's Furniture Store. His family also had owned the second-floor apartments.

Surprisingly, one of the calmest looking persons at the scene was Arian Zenker, who owns an appliance business next door.

"I have two cement fire walls protecting my store," he said, noting that the only probably damage would be from the smoke, which came into the store from vents on the roof.

However, the smoke which came into the appliance store seeped in only in very tiny amounts.

Miss Villareal said that about 30 paintings inside the art studio were destroyed.

The only part of the building which escaped major damage from the fire were second-story apartments in the front of the building. They, however, sustained major smoke damage.

Along with investigators from the Watsonville fire department, insurance men were examining the building this morning.